

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 BEIRUT 02598 091050Z
ACTION NEA-11

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-01 INR-10
L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 SP-02 SS-15 ICA-11
IO-13 TRSE-00 OMB-01 ACDA-12 SSM-03 /094 W
-----049580 091201Z /45

R 091005Z MAY 78
FM AMEMBASSY BEIRUT
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7904
INFO AMEMBASSY AMMAN
AMEMBASSY CAIRO
AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS
AMCONSUL JERUSALEM
AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

C O N F I D E N T I A L BEIRUT 2598

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PERP PLO LE
SUBJ: MURABITUN DISAFFECTION WITH FATAH?

1. IN CONVERSATION WITH EMBOFF AND PAO ON MAY 5, AL MURABITUN OFFICIAL SAMIR SABBAGH SAID THAT YASIR ARAFAT AND FATAH BELIEVED THAT THE UNITED STATES WAS ABOUT TO MAKE SIGNIFICANT CONCESSIONS WITH REGARD TO THE ESTABLISHMENT OF AN INDEPENDENT PALESTINIAN STATE ON THE WEST BANK. AS A RESULT, YASIR ARAFAT WAS PLACING PRESSURE ON THE NATIONAL MOVEMENT TO MODERATE ITS BEHAVIOUR, BOTH IN REGARD TO LEBANON AND THE MIDDLE EAST IN GENERAL.

2. SABBAGH SAID THAT THIS PRESSURE WAS CAUSING FRICTION BETWEEN FATAH AND THE NATIONAL MOVEMENT. HE THOUGHT ONE RESULT OF THIS PRESSURE WAS THAT MAJOR FIGHTING BETWEEN CHRISTIANS AND MUSLIMS IN LEBANON AT THIS TIME WAS UNLIKELY. HE BELIEVED THAT SKIRMISHES BETWEEN CHRISTIANS AND SYRIANS WERE ALWAYS POSSIBLE, HOWEVER.

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3. COMMENT: SABBAGH'S REMARKS SEEM TO INDICATE AN EVOLUTION IN AL MURABITUN POLICY AWAY FROM UNQUESTIONED SUPPORT OF FATAH. WE NOTE THAT SABBAGH'S COMPLAINTS FOR THE FIRST TIME (TO US AT LEAST), ABOUT TOO MUCH MODERATION ON THE PART OF THE PLO, COINCIDE WITH REMARKS OF PLO U.N. REPRESENTATIVE TERZI ON MAY 5 THAT ISRAEL "IS A

FACT" (EVEN THOUGH PLO HAS SUBSEQUENTLY
DISAVOWED TERZI'S COMMENTS).
LANE

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NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 jan 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: PALESTINIANS, DIPLOMATIC REPRESENTATIONS, DISSIDENT FACTIONS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 09 may 1978
Decaption Date: 01 jan 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 20 Mar 2014
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
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Disposition Remarks:
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Handling Restrictions: n/a
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ISecure: 1
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Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: 8ea42aa2-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION NEA
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
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Original Previous Classification: n/a
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TAGS: PEPR, PDIP, MPOL, LE, US, PLO, FATAH, (SABBAGH, SAMIR), (ARAFAT, YASIR)
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